



From the *Fall Line*

Serving the Counties of King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford & the City of Fredericksburg

Fall 2018



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DIRECTORY

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WWW.TCCSWCD.ORG



A District Legacy

PAVING A PATH FOR FUTURE SOIL & WATER STEWARDS.



With gratitude and regrets, TCCSWCD accepted L. Gordon "Link" Linkous' resignation as Associate Director to its Board of Directors this summer culminating Mr. Linkous' 60 years of dedicated service to Tri-County/City SWCD.

Be sure to keep an eye out for the Seedling Sale Flyer in your next email update from TCCSWCD!



Mr. Linkous has been an esteemed colleague, mentor, advisor, and friend to countless District Directors, staff, and area residents. Mr. Linkous hailed from Blacksburg, arriving in the area in 1958 where he began work for the USDA's Soil Conservation Service (now the

Natural Resources Conservation Service or NRCS). At that time, the District had no paid staff, and it was USDA's staff who planned and implemented technical projects and provided services on the District's behalf. After 30 years with USDA, Mr. Linkous retired only to be pressed back into service and promptly hired by Tri-County/City as the organization's first District Manager. Mr. Linkous served as District Manager for the next 8 years, laying the groundwork for many of the District's programs we operate today. Following a second "retirement," Mr. Linkous was elected by City of Fredericksburg voters to serve as a representative to the District's Board of Directors. After stepping down from the elected position, the Board appointed Mr. Linkous as an Associate Director to the Board.



During Mr. Linkous' 60 years with the District, he designed and installed numerous conservation projects; increased the adoption of conservation-focused best management practices by farmers and other citizens; and raised awareness of people of all ages about natural resource conservation. In recognition of the immense contributions of Mr. Linkous to natural resource conservation in the area and to the District as an organization, the TCCSWCD Board moved in June to rename its scholarship for the study of natural resource conservation the L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship and create a dedicated fund in order to accept donations expressly for the scholarship.



The Board shared the news of the renamed scholarship with Mr. Linkous and his family at a supper in his honor, during which current and former Directors and staff shared stories and

reflections on Mr. Linkous' service and friendship. While Mr. Linkous has technically resigned from all paid, elected, and appointed positions here at the District, we are grateful that he humors us by continuing to advise and mentor Board and staff.



The 2018 recipient of the L. Gordon "Link" Linkous Scholarship has been awarded to Felicity deToll from Mountain View High School, Stafford County.

Small Grain Cover Crop for Nutrient and Residue Management (SL-8B)

AN AGRICULTURAL BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE



This practice is used to establish a vegetative cover of rye, wheat, and barley on cropland. A small grain cover prevents the soil from eroding due to rainfall during the winter and early spring months (October to April).

Your normal commodity crops in King George, Stafford and Spotsylvania Counties are corn and soybeans. These crops are grown and harvested between April and September each year. Small grains are planted in September and early October following the harvest of corn and soybeans. Cover crops are planted during this time frame to get a good root system to

hold the soil in place over the winter months and to more effectively use the residual fertilizer left in the soil. The most sediment loss on cropland is between the months of October and April. If the ground surface is left exposed during this critical period, the soil will erode very easily. The soil should always be covered to prevent sediment from leaving the crop fields, and to help build soil quality, and to improve the quality of water leaving the farmland entering our stream and other waterbodies.

This practice is also used to reduce the leaching of residual nutrients from the previous corn or soybeans crop into the groundwater. In the years with low rainfall during the growing season, nutrients are not used by the previous planted crop; therefore, this residual fertilizer is left in the soil. If there is a lot of rainfall and snow melt during the winter and early spring, the residual nutrients will leach into the groundwater as the water infiltrates down through open pore spaces in the soil. Small grain cover crops trap the excess nutrients.

When the cover crop is chemically destroyed, the biomass adds organic matter to the soil, helps the soil tilth, and will make the soil more productive. Planting a cover crop also builds soil health and the roots help with soil compaction problems.

If you would like to discuss the Best Management Practices (BMPs) program or have any questions, please contact **Etta Lucas**, TCCSWCD Conservation Specialist at (540) 656-2402.



NRCS CORNER



Harvest season is creeping up on us, and that means it's time to start thinking cover crops! If you have contracted cover crops with NRCS and need additional information on planting specs, don't hesitate to give me a call. We have two different cover crop planting scenarios, so if you're unsure of what is in your plan, we'd rather check it prior to planting instead of after it's too late!

NRCS will start making Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) payments in December. If you want your CSP payment in 2018, call me in early December to schedule a time to meet so I can have all your paperwork ready and give you a heads up if additional documentation is needed before you arrive. If you prefer at 2019 payment, call me in January.

I've had several producers contacting me about the FY19 funding cycle for Environmental Quality Incentive Program (EQIP) and CSP since we're getting a new Farm Bill soon. I'm always accepting applications; however, I really don't know any specifics about what practices or funding are available at this point. We have been told that we are keeping our first application deadline of October 19th, so anyone who has already applied or comes by to apply prior to that deadline will receive priority consideration once we are given details by National Headquarters.

Safe harvesting and happy fall to everyone!

Lucie F. Kossler

USDA-NRCS District Conservationist,
Fredericksburg Service Center
540-684-9940

Lucia.kossler@va.usda.gov

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Envirothon – The Power to Ignite Enthusiasm

You may know someone who is familiar with this term – Envirothon. Whether it's an excited teacher, a dedicated student, or a former competitor, the word is always spoken with enthusiastic pride. So what is Envirothon? To put it simply, Envirothon is an annual environmental problem-solving competition that brings together high school teams across the nation to ponder on some of the world's most pressing challenges – the future of our lands.

In 1979, the Pennsylvania Soil & Water Conservation District came up with the "Environmental Olympics" which aimed to develop an interest and passion in high school students for the conservation and environmental fields. The competition quickly gained popularity with its interactive and hands-on learning approach as students tested their knowledge of soil science, aquatic ecology, forestry, wildlife, and current environmental issues. By 1987, the program had expanded to incorporate 40 teams, which garnered an interest in nearby states.

When teams from Pennsylvania, Ohio, and Massachusetts came together for their first national competition in 1988, Envirothon was officially born.

What started as a small initiative by the conservation districts, state conservation committees, forestry associations, and provincial conservation organizations to raise awareness and commitment to conservation, has now evolved into a nationwide project that positively influences the lives of over 500,000 young minds across the country.

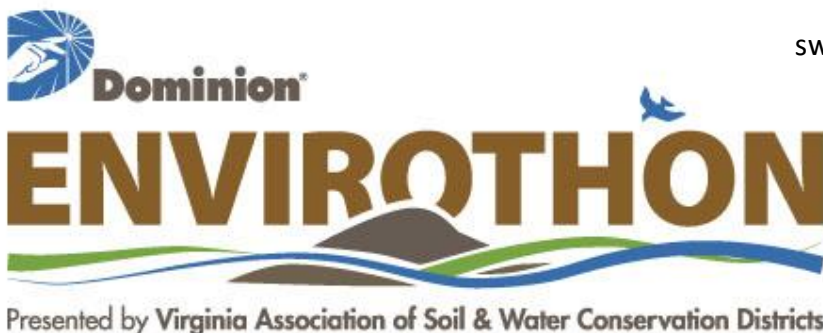
So how can you get involved?

TCCSWCD holds the 1st round Envirothon competition in March, and teams progress to the area, state, and national competitions. High School teachers and students who wish to join this year's competition in 2019 can reach out to our Education Coordinator for more information. We guide teachers through the ins and outs of Envirothon coaching and set up trainings where students learn from experts in the field. We are also eager to work with any community members who wish to offer their knowledge and expertise with the students of King George, Spotsylvania, Stafford, and City of Fredericksburg.

There is no limit to how much knowledge one can pass down to future generations. As writer, Ivern Ball, once said, "Knowledge is power, but enthusiasm pulls the switch."

Are you ready to pull the switch?

Contact **Mariya Hudick**, the TCCSWCD Education Coordinator, at (540) 656 – 2402 or email mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org





COMMUNITY INSIGHTS

KEEP IN THE KNOW AND UP TO DATE

Mark Your Calendars!



- P** **SMALL FARMER ORIENTATION** (Virginia State University, Culpeper), September 10th & November 12th:
<https://tinyurl.com/yb22nvgm>
- P** **HEALTHY LANDS FOR HEALTHY HORSES** (Virginia Forage & Grassland Council, Loudon), September 25th:
<https://tinyurl.com/ydaq59ue>
- P** **ALTERNATIVE WAYS TO IMPROVE SOIL HEALTH** (Virginia State University, Culpeper), September 25th:
<https://tinyurl.com/y7tnwejf>
- P** **GREEN TALKS – PLANTS MAPPING** (Virginia Cooperative Extension, King George), September 20th:
<https://tinyurl.com/yb58v6yd>
- F** **VIRGINIA STATE FAIR** (State Event, Caroline), September 28th – October 7th: <https://tinyurl.com/y848feo2>
- F** **PLANTABLE PAPER MAKING** (Lake Anna State Park, Spotsylvania), September 29th:
<https://tinyurl.com/y79mv4gz>
- P** **GRAZING SCHOOL FOR AG PROFESSIONALS** (Virginia Forage & Grassland Council, Nottaway), October 2nd – 3rd:
<https://tinyurl.com/ybqkoqma>
- IDENTIFYING MUSHROOMS** (Porter Branch Library, Stafford), October 6th: <https://tinyurl.com/yax3dsto>
- BIG FALL CLEANUP** (Friends of the Rappahannock, Fredericksburg), October 7th: <https://tinyurl.com/ybcyf28>
- FALL FAMILY FESTIVAL** (Stafford Parks & Recreation, Stafford), October 13th: <https://tinyurl.com/y726ya3e>
- F** **EARTH SCIENCE WEEK** (National Event) October 14th – 20th: <https://tinyurl.com/y8kq33pm>
- SOIL, SOIL, EVERYWHERE – HOMESCHOOL PROGRAMMING** (TCCSWCD & Salem Church Library, Spotsylvania), October 15th, November 19th, December 17th: 2 PM – 3 PM
- CREATURES OF THE NIGHT HIKE** (Fredericksburg Parks & Recreation, Fredericksburg), October 26th:
<https://tinyurl.com/ycykv1xm>
- ART & WINE FESTIVAL** (Caledon State Park, King George), November 3rd & 4th: <https://tinyurl.com/y8kh32vq>
- P** **VIRGINIA COASTAL PARTNERS WORKSHOP** (Department of Environmental Quality, Richmond), November 14th & 15th: <https://tinyurl.com/y7jmvh74>
- P** **WOODS & WILDLIFE CONFERENCE** (Virginia Cooperative Extension, Fredericksburg), February 24th, 2019:
<https://tinyurl.com/y89d6y2x>

KEY: **P** Professional Event **F** Family Event

Virginia Soil Health with Robb Hinton



USDA-NRCS is proud to share three new “soil health” videos profiling Robb Hinton, a grain farmer who manages 1,400 acres on Virginia’s historic Northern Neck. Robb is a dedicated no-till farmer, cover crop fan, and passionate advocate for soil improvement. He is also a top farm business manager with an exceptional focus on streamlining costs and return on investment.

Check out the videos on YouTube: <https://tinyurl.com/y88b2qaa>

Community Spotlight



The Central Rappahannock Master Naturalists started their Fall Training this August. Expect to welcome the newly trained Master Naturalists before the end of 2018!

Interested in becoming a Master Naturalist next year? Contact Jim Scibek at j-m-scibek@msn.com to learn more.

A Fond Farewell to Izabela Sikora and a Warm Welcome to Mariya Hudick, TCCSWCD's New Education Coordinator

As many of you know, this summer the District said a fond farewell to Education Coordinator Izabela Sikora and welcomed her successor, Mariya Hudick. The District is incredibly grateful to Ms. Sikora for her all her work over the last five years building our education program. When Ms. Sikora took the position in 2013, it was part-time. Over three years, she used hard work and enthusiasm to grow and evolve the education program to the point that, in 2016, the District's Board of Directors realized its Education Coordinator should be a

full-time position. With the departure of Ms. Sikora, the District knew it needed to bring in someone with passion and enthusiasm who could build on Izabela's work. We were fortunate to have had a strong pool of candidates and were pleased to offer the position to Mariya Hudick, who has worked with the District on various education projects and was given a resounding endorsement by Ms. Sikora to serve as her successor. We are excited to welcome Ms. Hudick and for her to share her talents with you and are glad to have Ms. Sikora as a resource we can call on who will always be part of our extended Tri-County/City family.



Well Wishes for Kim McAfee and a Hearty Hello for Jen Benson, TCCSWCD's New Administrative Professional

In other TCCSWCD "family" news, this summer the District also bid farewell to Kim McAfee, our Administrative Professional since 2012 and welcomed Jen Benson. During her service, Ms. McAfee saw the District successfully through the upheaval of an office move as well as the conversion from paper to electronic bookkeeping. It's not glamorous work and often goes unrecognized, but such work is critical to running the District and allowing us to provide the services we do for our localities and their residents. We are grateful to Ms. McAfee for her service and her many unseen contributions. The District is pleased to welcome our new Administrative Professional, Jen Benson, who started 9/4/18. Ms. Benson has a bachelor's degree in Leadership and Management and brings with her extensive administrative and financial experience from her work with the Rappahannock YMCA. We are delighted to have Ms. Benson join us in this indispensable role.

Meet Your Community Members

MARIYA HUDICK, TCCSWCD EDUCATION COORDINATOR

Q. Welcome to the District! Can you share with our community a little bit about yourself?

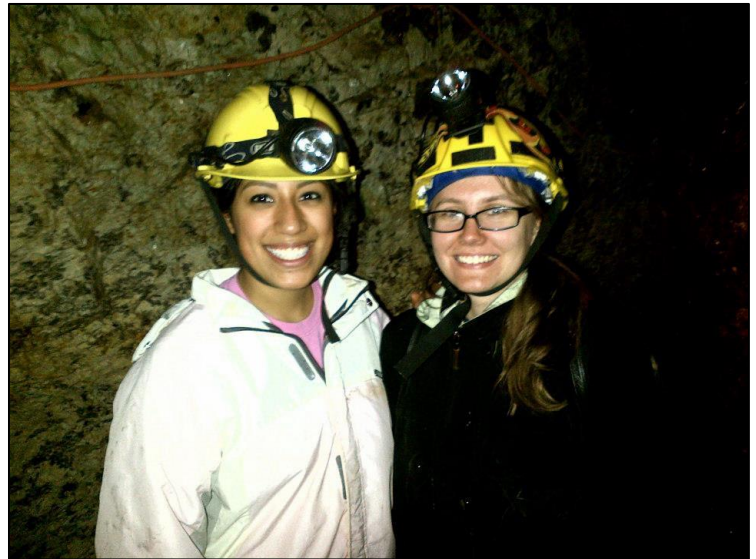
Certainly! Not many people realize this, but I have been a part of the Greater Fredericksburg area since 2004. I finished most of my K-12 education in Spotsylvania County Public Schools (Go Ponax!) and attended the University of Mary Washington where I received my Bachelor of Science in Environmental Geology. I was employed by the Virginia Department of Conservation & Recreation for the last three years and have worked closely with students from King George, Louisa, Orange, Spotsylvania, Stafford, Westmoreland, and the City of Fredericksburg. I am really excited to continue assisting this region.

Q. What made you interested in pursuing education as a career?

Back in 2013, I hit a rough patch during my undergraduate career. I loved the study of geology, but I was also unsure if I was suited for the field. So that summer, I randomly decided to start volunteering for the Labor & Delivery Department in Spotsylvania Regional Medical Center to develop my “people skills”. It was something completely opposite to what I had been studying. Every day was spent learning new medical terminology in the practice to better communicate with our patients. I was lucky to meet an inspiring Volunteer Coordinator, Rob Toonkel, who directed my undiscovered passion for people. After that summer, I began researching various career opportunities that could combine my love for rocks and the ability to connect with people. Fast forward five years later and here we are!

Q. As you familiarize yourself with the new job, what are some of your personal goals you wish to achieve as an Education Coordinator?

Working with students is always a priority, but I also wish to engage with the community as a whole. It is



heartwarming to see not only the kids, but the parents as well, sharing their memories spent with us outside. It is never too late to learn something new, and I’d argue that it is adults, more than their children, that enjoy reconnecting with their inner explorer. When building the educational programs, I do so by subject matter rather than age group. For example, I can offer an engaging program on Rainfall Runoff to any age by catering the information to on my audience. If at the end of the day my students (of any age!) can answer the question, “So what? Why should I care?”, then I know we have sparked their curiosity. Whether you are 8 or 80, I want everyone to have fun learning more about the environment.

Q. Last question – why rocks?

Because you can’t take them for granite! Hahahaha! Did you know that geologists will sometimes lick a rock to help them identify it? After I told my students that, they decided to brand me as the “Rock Licking Lady”. To me, rocks are fun. Sometimes, you just have to make like a pebble and roll with it.

2018 CONSERVATION POSTER CONTEST



DEADLINE: October 5th, 2018 by 4:30 PM

The annual Conservation Poster Contest provides kindergarten through twelfth grade students an opportunity to convey their thoughts about soil, water and related natural resource issues through art. It also highlights the educational outreach efforts of conservation districts and their state conservation associations, auxiliaries and agencies. The poster contest theme follows the annual NACD Stewardship theme.

Each year, the poster contest starts at the district level. District winners advance to the state level. Finally, state winners advance to the National Contest. National winners are recognized each year at the NACD Annual Meeting.

Any Girl Scout or Boy Scout who creates a poster and submits it to their local SWCD for judging can earn the VASWCD Poster Contest Patch. When submitting a poster to earn the Poster Contest Patch, be sure to check the box on the entry form. The contest is open to public, private or home school students, girl scout/boy scout troops, etc.

2018 Contest Theme

Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home

Poster Categories by Grade:

- K-1st
- 2nd-3rd
- 4th-6th
- 7th-9th
- 10th-12th

Rules and Resources

- ✚ Any media may be used, including paint, crayon, colored pencil, charcoal, stickers, paper, or other materials. Collage is acceptable but must be 2-D only. **The poster size must be FLAT and 14" x 22" (half a poster).**
 - ✚ All posters must be created by an individual student, rather than a team of students.
 - ✚ The 2018 Stewardship theme "Watersheds: Our Water, Our Home" must be included on the front side of each poster submission to be eligible for the national poster contest.
 - ✚ Each entry for the national contest must be submitted to NACD with an entry form to be eligible for judging. The form must be completed and signed by a parent or guardian.
 - ✚ Although younger students will most likely receive help in planning from parents or teachers, NACD encourages each student to do their own work.
- ***Note: Entries with student handwriting and coloring will score better than those designed, drawn, and colored by adult assistance.

Prizes

The top three posters in each category of the national contest will receive monetary prizes. First place winners will receive \$200, second place winners will receive \$150 and 3rd place winners will receive \$100. Monetary prizes at the national level are sponsored by the NACD Auxiliary from their quilt project and the Albert I Pierce Foundation.

Visit the NACD Poster Contest site for additional resources, free activities and lesson

ideas: <http://www.nacdnet.org/general-resources/stewardship-and-education-materials/contests/>





2018 NACD/VASWCD POSTER CONTEST Local Entry Form

Submit all entries to:

*Tri -County/City Soil & Water Conservation District
4811 Carr Drive, Fredericksburg, VA 22408*

Deadline: October 5th, 2018 by 4:30 PM

Please see contest rules on the next page. Attach this registration form to the back of your poster.

Please check appropriate category

K-1st	
2 nd -3 rd	
4 th -6 th	
7 th -9 th	
10 th -12 th	

☐ This poster is being submitted to earn a Scout VASWCD Poster Contest Patch

STUDENT

First Name _____ Middle _____ Last _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Phone (_____) _____ E-mail _____

School Name _____ Grade _____ Age _____

_____ The poster is an original completed by the student.

_____ The student received assistance from another person or materials/ideas from another source. If so, please explain on another piece of paper.

SCHOOL

Teacher _____

Public School _____ Private School _____ Home School _____

Address _____ Phone (_____) _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address _____

Parent or guardian name (printed) _____

Signature of parent or guardian allowing NACD/District to utilize the poster for educational or promotional purposes:

_____ Date _____

SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

SWCD Name _____ TCCSWCD _____

Contact Name _____ Mariya Hudick _____

Email Address _____ mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org _____

Questions?

Contact Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District, Education Coordinator **Mariya Hudick** at

(540) 656-2401 or email mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org

Virginia Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

<http://vaswcd.org/poster-contest>

WE HAVE RAIN BARRELS!

Installation of a rain barrel is an excellent way to prevent soil erosion, conserve water, and save money. Rain barrels are containers that are connected to your downspouts to capture runoff from the roof. The water collected can provide plants and gardens with water, reduce flooding in your yard, and help protect the Chesapeake Bay.



TCCSWCD sells 50-gallon rain barrels for \$85 year-round. Each rain barrel comes with complete instructions and installation kit. Contact the District today to reserve yours! Call (540) 656 – 2401 or email mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org

DID YOU KNOW?

A single 1" rain storm on a 1,000 square foot roof results in 600+ gallons of runoff.

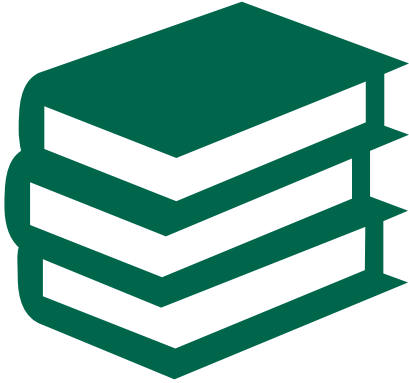
HAVE YOU CHECKED YOUR SOIL?

With fall around the corner, Fall is the best time to start thinking about your lawn and garden for next year. That's right, you read it correctly – preparation of your green space begins before the previous year can come to an end. But before you dive into choosing next year's wish list of garden and ornamental plants, consider the soil that you will be working with. One of the best ways to ensure that your greenery will continue to thrive is by analyzing the ground beneath your feet.

Virginia Tech provides soil sample tests starting at \$10 per sample. So don't guess, soil test!

For more information, check out the Virginia Tech website for step-by-step instructions, literature, and forms: <https://www.soiltest.vt.edu/>





THE READING NOOK

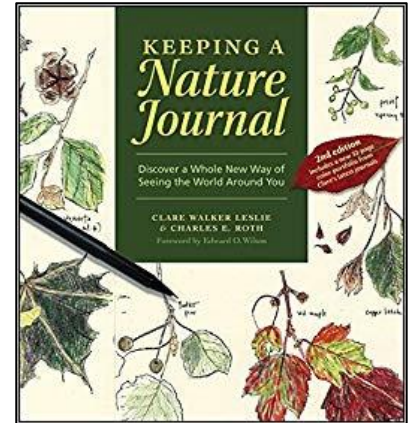
RECOMMENDED READINGS

Have a suggestion you would like to see in the next issue? Contact **Mariya Hudick** at (540) 656-2402 or email mariya.hudick@tccswcd.org

Keeping a Nature Journal

If you ever wanted to learn something new about nature, a great way to do so is to explore it through art. When you take the time to sketch something, you notice all the details and intricacies of your subject matter. It isn't about the beautiful accuracy of your drawing but rather the time you've spend to better understand what is before you.

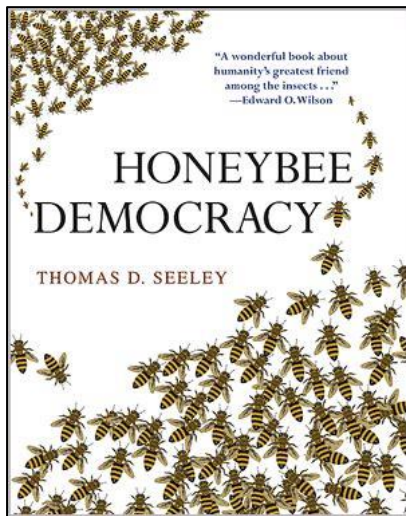
Don't know where to start? Pick up "Keeping a Nature Journal" by Clare Walker Leslie and Charles E. Roth. Follow along their tips and tricks for nature observation as you discover a whole new way of seeing the world around you through your paper and pencil.



Honeybee Democracy

Shopping for a new home can be quite a hectic experience. Now imagine doing the same with your three hundred neighbors. How does a hive of bees coordinate to vote on a decision? In this illuminating guide to honeybees, Dr. Thomas D. Seeley shares his research findings on the science behind honeybee communication. When finding a new home is a life or death decision for the colony, discover how a "bunch of tiny-brained bees" achieve a high collective IQ.

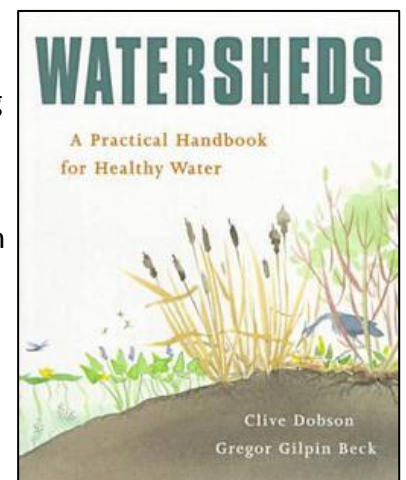
Get ready for a fascinating lesson from bees on how to build a smoothly functioning group, capable of exploiting fully the power of democratic decision making in "Honeybee Democracy".



Watersheds, a Practical Handbook for Healthy Water

Even I must admit that seeing the word 'handbook' causes me to yawn. We all live in a watershed, but isn't there a way to learn more about it without relying on content – heavy manuals and textbooks? Despite its name, Clive Dobson and Gregor Gilpin Beck do just that with their beautifully illustrated guide to everything You might ever want to know about watersheds.

Their simple explanations of complex concepts paired with watercolor images is the perfect combination of storytelling and scientific inquiry. With the "How Can I Help?" sections sprinkled throughout the book, the readers are provided practical and meaningful options to help restore the health of rivers and streams.



Tri-County/City Soil & Water Conservation District Directory



District Directors

Giannina Frantz, Chair	Fredericksburg
Mike Broaddus, Vice-Chair	VA Cooperative Extn
Wayne Miller, Secretary	Spotsylvania
Janet Gayle Harris, Treasurer	King George
Jeff Adams	Stafford
Mike Anderson	Stafford
Steve Cameli	Fredericksburg
Jan Massey	Spotsylvania
Richard Street	At-large
Robert Wernsman	King George

Associate Directors

Gordon Linkous	Fredericksburg
John Howe	Stafford
Ray Simms	Spotsylvania

District Staff

Marta Perry	District Manager
Etta Lucas	Conservation Specialist
Jennifer Benson	Administrative Professional
Mariya Hudick	Education Coordinator

Partner Agencies

Amy Walker, <i>DCR</i>	Conservation District Coordinator
Lucia Kossler, <i>NRCS</i>	District Conservationist

TCCSWCD maintains a working relationship with each of the following agencies and organizations to reach common conservation goals:

City of Fredericksburg
King George County
Spotsylvania County
Stafford County
USDA – Natural Resources Conservation Service
USDA – Farm Services Agency
VA Department of Conservation & Recreation
VA Cooperative Extension
Friends of the Rappahannock
VA State Parks
VA Native Plant Society
Tree Fredericksburg
George Washington Regional Council
Potomac River Watershed Roundtable
Rappahannock River Basin Commission
York River & Small Coastal Basins Roundtable
VA Department of Environmental Quality
VA Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services
VA Department of Forestry
VA Department of Game & Inland Fisheries
VA Outdoors Foundation
U.S. Army Corp of Engineers
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
VA Association of Soil & Water Conservation Districts

All programs and services of the Tri-County/City Soil and Water Conservation District are available without regard to race, color, national origin, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, veteran status, age, marital status, disability, gender, gender identity, political affiliation or any other basis protected by law.